

Education

The President's 2007 Budget continues the successful pro-growth policies that have encouraged robust economic growth and job creation. A strong economy, together with spending restraint, is critical to reducing the deficit. The Budget builds on last year's successful spending restraint by again holding the growth of overall discretionary spending below inflation, proposing to reduce non-security discretionary spending below the previous year's level, and calling for the elimination or reduction of programs not getting results or not fulfilling essential priorities. Like last year, the budget proposes savings and reforms to mandatory spending programs, whose unsustainable growth poses the real long-term danger to our fiscal health.

The 2007 Budget builds on the success of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and continues to ensure that Americans have the education they need to be prepared for the jobs of the 21st Century. Since President Bush signed NCLB into law in January 2002, historic levels of funding and support have been combined with an unprecedented commitment to ensuring that America's schools are producing results for every child. The latest results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), better known as "The Nation's Report Card," show that these changes are paying off in the way that counts: improved student achievement. The President's FY 2007 Budget proposes to provide additional assistance to schools most in need of improvement and children attending chronically low-performing schools; bring NCLB reforms into high schools; and improve math and science education by investing in research on effective methods of instruction, teacher training, and teacher recruitment. The Budget also continues to ensure that all needy students will be able to afford a postsecondary education, and targets additional aid to high-achieving students pursuing critical national needs.

The President's FY 2007 Budget:

- Proposes a new competitive grant program to expand the educational opportunities available to students in chronically low-performing schools.
- Supports a comprehensive approach aligned with the key principles of the No Child Left Behind Act to increase the achievement of high school students.
- Proposes, as part of the President's American Competitiveness Initiative, a series of K-12 math and science initiatives designed to strengthen the capacity of our schools, improve math and science learning, and increase the number of math and science teachers.
- Supports, as part of a new multi-agency effort, the President's proposed National Security Language Initiative, designed to strengthen the national capacity in critical languages.

The FY 2007 Budget also includes:

No Child Left Behind

- An increase in funding for NCLB programs by \$1 billion, or 4.6 percent, taking the total increase to \$7 billion, or 40 percent, since 2001.

Title I and School Improvement

- \$12.9 billion for Title I programs, including a \$200 million increase over the 2006 level to provide assistance to schools that have not met their NCLB student achievement goals for at least two years.
- \$12.7 billion to continue support for Title I Grants to local educational agencies, a 45-percent increase since 2001.

Special Education and IDEA

- \$100 million increase for IDEA State Grants to provide a high quality education to the nearly seven million students with disabilities. This would build on the \$4.3 billion or 69 percent increase since 2001.

Bringing NCLB to High Schools

- \$1.5 billion for a high school reform program to help States implement tests in language arts and math in high schools and to support a wide range of effective interventions. In exchange for a commitment to improve academic achievement and graduation rates for secondary school students, States will receive the flexibility to implement intervention strategies most effective in serving the needs of their at-risk high school students, particularly those at risk of dropping out.
- \$100 million, an increase of \$70 million over the 2006 level, to develop and implement research-based interventions that will improve the reading skills of secondary school students who read below grade level.
- \$55 million to help States design and implement data systems to monitor performance of high schools. Coupled with the Department's efforts to improve its use of data to improve results, this funding will enhance the States' capacity to manage, analyze, and use data to improve student achievement.

American Competitiveness Initiative

- \$380 million for the American Competitiveness Initiative to fund for programs designed to enhance math and science education for elementary and secondary school students. The initiative includes:
 - \$10 million for a National Math Panel to evaluate empirically the effectiveness of various approaches to teaching math and science and to create a research base to improve instructional methods and materials.
 - A \$125 million Math Now for Elementary School Students program to support the sharing and research of promising practices to help K-7 teachers prepare students for more rigorous courses in middle and high school.
 - A new \$125 million Math Now for Secondary School Students program designed to identify middle school students who are not proficient in math and provide targeted services to boost their achievement.
 - \$122 million, an increase of \$90 million over 2006, for the Advanced Placement program to increase access for low-income students to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. We have set a five-year goal of training 70,000 new teachers and increasing the number of students with passing AP/IB scores to 700,000.
 - \$25 million for the Adjunct Teacher Corps to create opportunities for qualified professionals from outside the K-12 educational system to teach secondary-school

courses in the core academic subjects, with an emphasis on mathematics and the sciences. This \$25 million investment is the first step in building a 30,000 member Adjunct Teacher Corps by 2015.

- \$5 million to evaluate Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education programs to determine which are effective in meeting their stated goals.

School Choice

- \$100 million for a competitive grant program that will enable States, school districts, or non-profits to offer low-income students in chronically low-performing schools expanded educational opportunities. Students will be eligible for funding that may be used to cover some of the cost of attending the private school of their choice or receiving intensive supplemental services.

Higher Education

- \$80 billion in student aid available to approximately 10 million postsecondary students. This includes more than five million needy students who receive Pell grants each year, approximately one million more than when President Bush took office.
- \$4.5 billion for new Academic Competitiveness Grants, which provide supplemental grants to low-income college freshmen and sophomores who completed a rigorous high school curriculum and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in college, and juniors and seniors who major in math, science, and critical foreign languages. This new grant aid to students through the 2010-2011 academic year includes \$790 million in the upcoming 2006-2007 academic year and \$850 million in 2007-2008.

National Security Language Initiative

- \$24 million to create pilot programs between universities and school districts for critical foreign language learning from early childhood through high school and into college.
- \$5 million for the Language Teacher Corps, a new program that would allow individuals with language skills interested in teaching to receive training and certification to teach in the classroom.
- A \$2 million increase for the existing Foreign Language Assistance program to support innovative model programs providing for the establishment, improvement, or expansion of critical foreign language study for elementary and secondary school students.